

REMARKS

Claim Amendment

Applicant has amended independent claim 19 to distinguish recently submitted WO 97/48440, which at least fails to disclose or suggest that the skin penetrating elements extend from "a surrounding surface of the backing." Instead, the elements of WO 97/48440 extend from an edge adjacent an opening 8 (see Fig. 2). No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Interview Summary

On March 29, 2003, attorney for Applicant participated in a telephonic interview with Examiner discussing the prior art of record, specifically, Reed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,312,456), and the claim language directed to the backing and shape of the penetrating elements.

Regarding Reed, it was submitted that Reed fails to disclose or suggest that "the array of skin penetrating elements, including each retention barb, is formed integrally from a single plastic resin" as claimed.

Regarding the claim language directed to the backing and size of the penetrating elements, the Examiner objected to the phrases "shaped and arranged," "sheet-form" and "sized to limit painful contact." By the Response filed March 31, 2003, Applicant has acknowledged these objections by the Examiner and has amended claim 19 accordingly.